

Testimony of Shaan Kamal

UConn School of Medicine Student

Appropriations Hearing – February 15, 2017

Re: UConn Health Budget

Hello, my name is Shaan Kamal, a student at UConn School of Medicine. I am a resident of Salem, CT. I received both my bachelor's and master's from the Storrs campus of UConn last spring. When I was applying to medical schools this past summer, UConn School of Medicine was far and away my top choice, and I'm now pursuing my MD/MPH as a first year student at the school of medicine. The entirety of my education would not have been possible without the support of the State of Connecticut. By the time I graduate, I will have spent nine years pursuing four degrees at UConn, all because of the support from the State. I am very appreciative of that and I know how valuable a public education is.

I am here to ask you to please reconsider the proposed budget cuts to UConn Health. In just the past few years, UConn Health has added the new University Tower, the Outpatient Pavilion, and welcomed JAX Labs. The medical and dental schools have opened up the new Academic Rotunda, and brand new study spaces along with state of the art technology such as a new simulation center and Anatomage tables. All of this in addition to the well-established Clinical Skills office that Yale School of Medicine sends its students to. In the past few weeks, I have become involved with the interview process and have seen firsthand the talent that the school of medicine attracts due to all of the aforementioned aspects of UConn Health.

All of these new facilities and additions to UConn Health have been phenomenal, but they are just the first steps in pushing UConn to the forefront of medicine and medical education. UConn cannot afford to stall the incredible progress it has made at this critical juncture in its history. Rather now is the time to push forward and continue to support UConn Health and its initiatives. Without the necessary funding, the University of Connecticut, its students and faculty and the people of the state will suffer. With all this in mind, I ask you to please reconsider the proposed budget cuts to UConn. Thank you for your time.